REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of February 7, 2008 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-16, and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 7,143,420 to Radhakrishnan (hereinafter Radhakrishnan) in view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0078210 to Aschir (hereinafter Aschir).

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the claim rejections, Applicants have amended the claims so as to expedite prosecution of the present application. It is expressly noted, however, that the amendments should not be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to present the original version of any of the amended claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. As discussed herein, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments.

Aspects of Applicants Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 1, is a method for providing Web services.

The method can include registering a Web service with a service registry;

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conveying the Web service to a service provider; installing the Web service within a service environment; and receiving a request for the Web service from a service user who has selected the Web service from the service registry. The request is received within an application server disposed within an application environment and the application environment is disposed within a different network space than the service environment.

The method also can include executing a servlet within the application environment to establish a communication pathway between the application server and a gateway; conveying to the gateway service-initiating information specifying the requested Web service; accessing the requested Web service across the gateway; and transporting service data for said Web service from the application server disposed in said application environment to the service user.

See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0031]-[0037]; see also Fig. 3.

The Claims Define Over the Cited References

Radhakrishnan discloses a strategic architecture for an end-to-end e-business system for an enterprise, which has an upper infrastructure layer having a service-driven architecture and a lower infrastructure layer having a network-centric architecture. In contrast, the present invention concerns a method and a system for providing Web services. The system of the present invention includes a service registry for registering a Web service; a service environment within which the Web service can be installed; an application server disposed within an application environment and configured to distribute the Web service to a service user upon receiving a request from the service user that selected the Web service from the service registry; and a gateway between the application server and the service environment in order to access the requested Web service. In the system of the present invention, the application environment is disposed within a different network space than the service environment.

First, it is noted that Radhakrishnan does not disclose a service registry for

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registering Web services. Col. 14, lines 45-50 of Radhakrishnan disclose the kind of services the basic infrastructure services include, but not a service registry from which a service user can search and select a Web service.

Second, it is also noted that Radhakrishnan does not disclose a gateway between the application server (application environment) and the Web services (service environment). As shown in Fig. 10 of Radhakrishnan, the connectivity/access/gateway/proxy is disposed between the user and the e-business system to provide the user with access to the system.

Third, it is further noted that Radhakrishnan does not disclose that the application environment should be disposed within a different network space than the service environment. In contrast, in Radhakrishnan the upper infrastructure layer and the lower infrastructure, although having different architectures, are disposed within the same network.

Aschir does not make up for the deficiencies of Radhakrishnan. It is noted that Aschir was cited solely for disclosing a Parlay gateway and the word "Parley" has been deleted from the independent Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22.

Accordingly, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, as amended. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 define over the prior art. Furthermore, as each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1, 8, 15, or 22 while reciting additional features, Applicants further respectfully submit that the remaining claims likewise define over the prior art.

Applicants thus respectfully request that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

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